

Name: _____ Date: _____

Freedom Words

Before Reading: As you come across words in bold in "Freedom or Death," ask yourself if you know them or if you can figure them out from context. Then check their meanings here.

1. **abolish:** "Many believed President Abraham Lincoln planned to abolish slavery throughout the entire U.S." (p. 18)
Meaning: to put an end to
2. **astonishment:** "The guards at the last checkpoint watched in astonishment as the *Planter* picked up speed and headed out to sea." (p. 16)
Meaning: a feeling of being very surprised
3. **commandeer:** "Robert made a plan: He would commandeer the *Planter* and turn it over to the Northern ships stationed outside the harbor." (p. 18)
Meaning: to take over something, like a boat, a car, or a building
4. **hold:** "Huddled in the damp hold of the ship were Robert's wife, Hannah, and their children." (p. 16)
Meaning: the area on a ship or airplane where things are stored
5. **intolerable:** "To Robert, this was intolerable." (p. 18)
Meaning: so bad you can't stand it
6. **plantations:** "She told him about the millions of slaves who worked on cotton and tobacco plantations throughout the South . . ." (p. 16)
Meaning: large farms found in warm climates where crops such as coffee, tea, tobacco, and cotton are grown
7. **prejudice:** "There was great prejudice against African-Americans, especially freed slaves." (p. 19)
Meaning: dislike of a person or group because of their race, religion, or other factor
8. **stealthily:** "They moved stealthily through the harbor, stopping first at a dock where Hannah and the children were hiding." (p. 19)
Meaning: in a quiet and secretive way to avoid being noticed
9. **treason:** "It was not only an act of stealing but of outright treason." (p. 18)
Meaning: helping your country's enemies during a war
10. **vivacious:** "Robert also fell in love with a vivacious woman named Hannah Jones, a slave who worked as a hotel maid." (p. 17)
Meaning: happy and full of energy

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After Reading: Now that you have read these vocabulary words in context, check your understanding by using the correct word from the word box to answer each question below.

WORD BOX

abolish	hold	prejudice	vivacious
astonishment	intolerable	stealthily	
commandeer	plantations	treason	

- Where would you expect to find extra food and supplies on a ship? _____
- What type of crime involves betraying your people? _____
- Before the Civil War, many enslaved African-Americans in Southern states were forced to help grow crops on large pieces of land. What were these pieces of land called? _____
- How might you describe a toddler who is running around and laughing? _____
- Which word describes the way a lion might approach his prey? _____
- If there were an unpopular after-school program, what might the principal do to it? _____
- What would you likely feel if you ran into a llama shopping at the supermarket? _____
- Which word might you use to describe the wind on a bitter-cold January day? _____
- Imagine that a girl in your class refused to invite any blond-haired children to her birthday party. What would this be an example of? _____
- If a greedy pirate spied a passing ship full of expensive silks and spices, what might he do to it?
